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deeply encañoned rivers of this country were determined to a very great extent by their waters finding and collecting in great fissures, and that these fissures were formed during the late Tertiary or during the upward oscillation of the Glacial epoch."

PENHALLOW'S VEGETABLE HISTOLOGY.[1]—In this little book of about forty pages the author has brought together many things which the beginner in laboratory work ought to know, and has done so in such a simple and unpretentious style that it cannot fail to be of great use, especially to those who take up the study of vegetable histology by themselves, and who have no ready teacher or demonstrator always at hand. The book contains, first, a short chapter on reagents and media for examination. In this the more indispensable materials are briefly noticed, and remarks are made upon the methods of using them.

The second chapter deals with vegetable products. Here again only the more important are taken up. The physical characters are briefly given, and the various tests and the methods of making them are described.

Next we have in outline a course of study for a beginner, which is simply a classified list of subjects for study, beginning with protoplasm, the nucleus, chlorophyll, etc., and ending with the minute anatomy of the stem and leaf.

Three valuable tables are given, devoted respectively to cell-contents, cellulose forms, and plant products. These resemble the tables in use in chemical laboratories, and show at a glance the principal physical characters of most vegetable structures, and their reactions in the presence of different reagents. These tables will prove to be very handy for the beginner. A short list of books of reference is given, and finally eighteen or twenty pages of blank leaves are left for notes and memoranda.

In a prefatory note the author announces that "if there is sufficient encouragement, it is proposed to issue a second edition, in which the plan will be much extended, thus making it of greater advantage to the beginner, and also useful to the advanced student. With this end in view, suggestions from teachers and practical histologists will be gladly welcomed." It is to be hoped that in due time this promised enlarged edition may appear.—*C. E. B.*

LUYS' THE BRAIN AND ITS FUNCTIONS.[2]—This translation for the International Scientific series will prove useful to many readers. It contains statements of facts and principles of psychology with which every person should be familiar. The author, however, is not happy in all his attempts at generalization. A few leading ideas have to do duty many times under new names, and the skill displayed in doing this reminds us of the great feast served to the King of Spain, in which all the dishes were made of sows' ears. The translator has also not been entirely competent, for the language is sometimes involved, and un-English words are occasionally used. The book is, however, a valuable contribution to popular scientific literature.

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[1] *Tables for the use of Students and Beginners in Vegetable Histology.* By D. P. PENHALLOW, B.S.; late professor of chemistry and botany in the Imperial College of Agriculture, Japan. Boston, S. E. Cassino, publisher, 1882.

[2] 8vo, pp. 327. D. Appleton & Co., New York, 1882.

JOURNAL OF THE POSTAL MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY.[1]—This new magazine originated in the desire of the members of the Postal Microscopical Society of the United Kingdom to utilize notes and drawings that were buried in note books. Its two hundred pages of clear type, illustrated with numerous plates, contain jottings upon subjects too numerous to mention, yet the following illustrated articles may be cited as examples: Mr. Hammond on *Tubifex rivulorum*, "the most abundant worm in Thames mud;" the Rev. E. T. Stubbs on a supposed new species of Caligus, which the writer, however, does not name; Mr. Hammond on *Stylaria paludosa* on the larva of *Tanypus maculatus;* and on the structure and economy of Daphnia; E. Lovett's observations on the embryology of the Podophthalmata; and W. Horner's articles on the structure and habits of spiders. Although portions of the book exhibit the usual fault of microscopic work, viz., that much of it is work done for the sake of the microscope rather than to supplement the writer's observations and studies in some department of natural science, yet it contains much that is of value, especially to the zoölogist.

CROSS ON ANDERSITE FROM COLORADO.[2]—The rock in question is described by Dr. Whitman Cross as a compact, dark, almost black rock, containing a few macroscopic glassy feldspars and dark-green grains.

Microscopically it is made up of a ground mass composed of minute plagioclase crystals, pyroxene microlites and magnetite octahedrons cemented by a clear glass base, which sometimes contains light brownish globulites; all holding crystals of plagioclase, pyroxene, magnetite and apatite. The pyroxene is in small crystals and irregular grains.

Optical examination of the pyroxene crystals led Dr. Cross to regard them as belonging to two divisions, a pleachroic or orthorhombic one and a triclinic one. The former was looked upon as hypersthene and the latter as a triclinic representative of augite.

Chosen specimens of the rock were crushed, the powder treated with strong hydrofluoric acid until all the minerals except the pyroxene and magnite were dissolved; the latter was then withdrawn with a magnet. The pyroxene minerals were again treated

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[1] *Journal of the Postal Microscopical Society*, a Miscellany of Natural and Microscopical Science. Edited by ALFRED ALLEN. Vol. I. London, W. P. Collins.

[2] *American Journal of Science*, New Haven, 1883 (3), XXV, 139.